

UNION STREET M. E. CHURCH

UNION STREET

The five course common bond brick bulk of the Union Street M. E. Church faces the east side of that street about halfway between the street's intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street in Westminster. The gable roofed building rests on coursed fieldstone foundations which become exposed to the rear of the building as the site slopes away from Union Street. A c. 1870 photograph of Union Street reveals that the building was originally a two bay by three bay gable roofed structure; and is unchanged except for the later addition of a two story steeple off the front facade directly in that facade's center. The church originally had, it appears, double-hung sash windows, with clear two over two panes. Later these later changed to colored glass, probably around the turn of the century. Perhaps the finest, certainly the most idiosyncratic feature of the building is the eaves' treatment. The sides of the building were built to be topped by a broad entablature of rather free form. Four step corbelling eases the move from the wall to the roof and the corbelling is enlivened by a row of brick dentils in its middle (composed of header bricks) and by larger drip "dentils" are three stories tall and square. On the front of the building this large drip molding continues, but becomes double as a second twin layer is built on its outside, but raised about a foot, creating interesting three dimensional and light-shadow effects. All this extremely intricate brickwork is original and unchanged, except were covered by the 15' x 15' x 2 story steeple-tower. The church's northern roof is pierced by a corbel capped chimney which rises about 5' within the brick wall, about halfway down its length to the north.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAN 503
MAGI #0705033508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Union Street M. E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Union Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Western Maryland College

Telephone #: 848-7000

STREET & NUMBER

Westminster

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(From last alteration)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The five course common bond brick bulk of the Union Street M. E. Church faces the east side of that street about halfway between the street's intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street in Westminster. The gable roofed building rests on coursed fieldstone foundations which become exposed to the rear of the building as the site slopes away from Union Street. A c. 1870 photograph of Union Street reveals that the building was originally a two bay by three bay gable roofed structure; and is unchanged except for the later addition of a two story steeple off the front facade directly in that facade's center. The church originally had, it appears, double-hung sash windows, with clear two over two panes. These later changed to colored glass, probably around the turn of the century.

Perhaps the finest, certainly the most idiosyncratic feature of the building is the eaves' treatment. The sides of the building were built to be topped by a broad entablature of rather free form. Four step corbelling eases the move from the wall to the roof and the corbelling is enlivened by a row of brick dentils in its middle (composed of header bricks) and by larger drip "dentils" are three stories tall and square. On the front of the building this large drip molding continues, but becomes double as a second twin layer is built on its outside, but raised about a foot, creating interesting three dimensional and light-shadow effects. All this extremely intricate brickwork is original and unchanged, except were covered by the 15' x 15' x two story steeple tower. The church's northern roof is pierced by a corbel capped chimney which rises about 5' within the brick wall, about halfway down its length to the north.

The angle of the old photograph does not reveal what the original door was like. The present door, in the center of the tower, is a double eight-panel door topped by a tall transom which repeats the art nouveau patterns of the windows. All windows are topped by three course gauged flat arches, except on the tower.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CARR-503

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The brick Union Street M.E. Church has served the local black community in Westminster since the early mid-19th century. The clean lines of the compact structure are made up of a gable roof building two bays by three bays in dimension that is, with one exception, unaltered from its original appearance. This single alteration consists of a two story bell tower-steeple, located in the center of the principal facade. The tower was built off of the older fabric, not into it. The fairly simple lines of the building are given interest in the entablature that surrounds the building. This interesting use of decorative brickwork with its header dentil and three story three coursed large drip rows, is of interesting design in an area noted for its brickwork. The super-imposed steps that rise on the end facades walls create a type of motion that anticipates, by three generations, streamlining of the 1930's.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being a lot without an acre on the east side of Union Street halfway between that street's intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue to the north and Main Street to the south.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant September, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church
CARR-503
Union Street
Westminster, Carroll County, MD
Catocin Center for Regional Studies,
Frederick Community College
July 2009

Addendum

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Rev. John Baptist Snowden was born a slave in Westminster in 1801. At the age of 21 he began to preach locally and soon afterward bought his own freedom. In 1864, he helped found the Washington Conference, made up of African American Methodists in Maryland and the District of Columbia. The Conference appointed him to the Western Chapel Charge in Carroll County. A delegation from Westminster approached him in June 1866 about building an African Methodist Episcopal church in their town; before, they had worshipped in the basement of the white Methodist Episcopal Church.¹ In 1867, Amos and Rebecca Bell donated land on Union Street known as "Fanny's Meadow," which they had been given at their manumission in 1860, and the church was erected there c.1867. Its original trustees were John M. Snowden, Amos Bell, William Lowery, George W. Bell, and William Parker; later ones included Lewis Charlton and Nicholas Parker.²

In the years following the Civil War, the church sponsored a Freedmen's Bureau school. Its trustees included Ephraim P. Smith, William Lowery, Uriah Brice, Elmer L. Cross, and Alfred Brace.³ Classes began by January 1868, but the school building was not completed until November 1869; classes were likely held in the church building in the interim.⁴ Teachers included Adolphus H. Levi in summer and fall 1868, T. B. Snowden in winter 1869, M. J.

¹ "Steeple Chase." *Carroll County Times* [Westminster] 26 Sept. 2003; from vertical file, "Union Street Methodist Church," Historical Society of Carroll County, MD.

² Blackman, Ivory P., *History of the Union Street United Methodist Church, Westminster, Maryland*, October 21, 1973; from vertical file, "Union Street Methodist Church," Historical Society of Carroll County, MD.

³ Letter, Trustees (Smith, E.P., William Luwey, Uriah [?] Bruce, Elmer L. Cross, and Alfred Burce) and Superintendent (T. B. Snowden) to John Kimball, 15 November 1869; *Registered Letters Received, January 1868 – December 1869; Bureau of the Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872*; M1056, Roll 8, Screen no. 0641; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

⁴ Extant Teachers' Monthly School Reports; *Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871*; NARA 1145; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC; Letter, Trustees (Smith, E.P., William Luwey, Uriah [?] Bruce, Elmer L. Cross, and Alfred Burce) and Superintendent (T. B. Snowden) to John Kimball, 15 November 1869; *Registered Letters Received, January 1868 – December 1869; Bureau of the Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872*; M1056, Roll 8, Screen no. 0641; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

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Sorrell in spring 1869, and T. B. Snowden again in summer 1869.⁵ Snowden also served as school Superintendant; his letters to the Freedmen's Bureau from November 1869 to May 1870 constantly begged for the money that had been promised them to build the school, and warned that "the creditors will take the "lean law" on the building."⁶ The outcome of this is unclear; an 1877 map labels the site as a "Colored School," so the site likely remained a school house whatever its ownership.⁷

T. B. Snowden was the son of John B. Snowden; he left Westminster in 1870, worked his way through Howard University to graduate in 1877, and then received a B. D. from the School of Theology at Boston University in 1881. He worked as professor of Systematic and Practical Theology in the Centenary Biblical Institute of Baltimore.⁸

⁵ Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen of Abandoned Lands, Oct 1868, Rent of School Houses; *Schedule of Schools and Rental Accounts; Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871*; M803, Roll 34, Screen no. 0029; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC; Supplement to Monthly School Report, December 1868; *Schedule of Schools and Rental Accounts; Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871*; M1056, Roll 12, Screen no. 0202-0203; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC; Schedule of Schools, Baltimore Association, quarter ending March 31st, 1869; *Schedule of Schools and Rental Accounts; Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871*; M803, Roll 34, Screen no. 0152-0154; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC; Schedule of Schools under the Baltimore Association in State of Maryland, together with rental account for the 3 months ending June 30th, 1869; *Schedule of Schools and Rental Accounts; Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871*; M803, Roll 34, Screen no. 0071; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC; and Schedule of Schools under the Baltimore Association of [ill], for the quarter ending Dec. 1st, 1869; *Schedule of Schools and Rental Accounts; Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871*; M803, Roll 34, Screen no. 0118; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

⁶ Letter, T. B. Snowden to W. L. Vanderlip, May 1870; *Registered Letters Received, Jan. – Sept. 1870, A-Y*; Bureau of the Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872; M1056, Roll 9, Screen no. 1379-1389; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

⁷ *An Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County, Maryland* (Westminster: Historical Society of Carroll County, 1993).

⁸ "Progress of the Emancipated Race." *The Phrenological Journal* 84.2 (Feb. 1887): 87-89. Google Books. Google. <<http://books.google.com/>>.

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Westminster, Carroll County, MD
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Addendum

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A Parish House was added to the property in 1923, and the church's nave was extended in November 1927.⁹ An expansion was completed in 1983 under the pastorate of Rev. Kirk Monroe. In 1991, the church became a separate station under the Rev. Joan Carter-Rimbach, and was "the only black United Methodist congregation in Carroll to be recognized as a station, or self-sufficient church."¹⁰

⁹ "Steeple Chase." *Carroll County Times* [Westminster] 26 Sept. 2003; from vertical file, "Union Street Methodist Church," Historical Society of Carroll County, MD.

¹⁰ "Steeple Chase." *Carroll County Times* [Westminster] 26 Sept. 2003; from vertical file, "Union Street Methodist Church," Historical Society of Carroll County, MD.

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Scharf, John T., *History of Western Maryland*, Vol. II (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968 [originally published in Philadelphia, L. H. Everts, 1882]), 850, 860, 870, 883, 963.

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Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-503

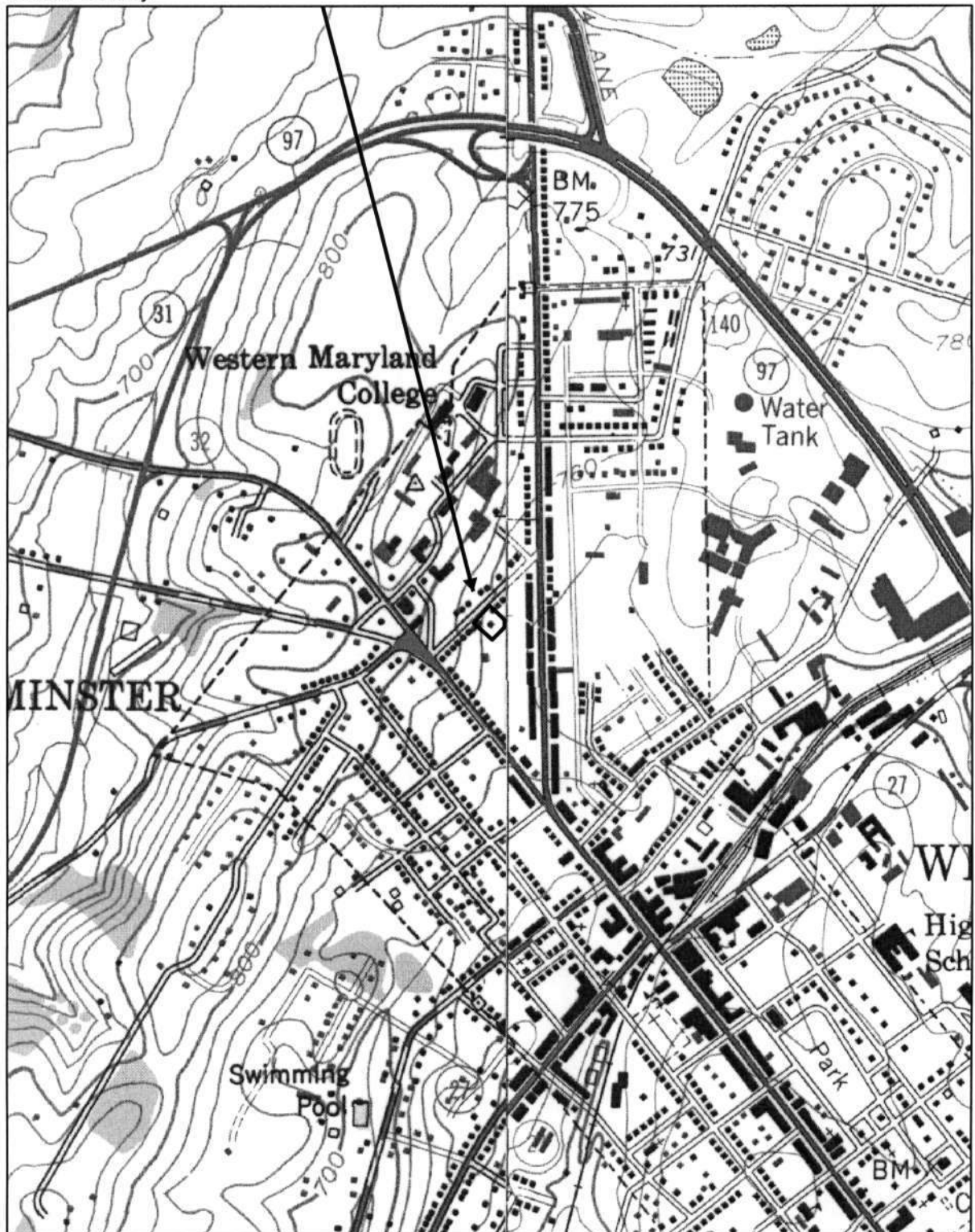
Property Name: Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church
Digital Photograph File Log

Page 1 of 1

Ink Used: Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks
Paper Used: Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper
Date: September 4, 2009

File Name	Photo Description	Photographer
CARR-503_2009-07-22_01	North view, façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-503_2009-07-22_02	Northwest view, façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-503_2009-07-22_03	Northwest view, façade and side	Jenna Gianni
CARR-503_2009-07-22_04	Northwest view, side, façade, and view of Union Street	Jenna Gianni

CARR-503
Union Street Methodist Church
Union Street
Westminster
Westminster Quad
Carroll County





CARR-503

Union Street Methodist Episcopal
Church, Union St.

Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

N view, facade

1/4



CARR-503

Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Union St.
Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NW view, facade

2/4



CARR-503

Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Union St.
Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

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MHT Digital Archive

NW view, facade + west side

3/4



CARR-503

Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Union St.
Carroll County, Maryland

Jenna Gianni

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MHT Digital Archive

NW view, west side + facade w/ view of
Union st.

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